DIEV ET MON DROIT

By the King.

A Proclamation for preuenting of the abuſes growing by the vnordered Retailing of Tobacco.

WHereas the Plant or Drugge called Tobacco ſcarce knowne to this Nation in former times, was in this Age firſt vſually brought into this Realme in ſmall quantity, as Medicine, and ſo vſed, and by diuers taken as Medicine, but in proceſſe of time, to ſatiſfie the inordinate appetite of a great number of men and women it hath been brought in in great quantity, and taken for wantonneſſe and exceſſe, prouoking them to drinking and other inconueniences, to the great impairing of their healths, and deprauing of their manners, ſo that the care which his Maieſty hath of his people hath enforced him to thinke of ſome meanes for the preuenting of the euill conſequence of this immoderate vſe thereof. And albeit his Maieſties deareſt father of bleſſed memorie had giuen directions therein, as well by Proclamation as otherwiſe, yet thoſe waies tooke not ſo good effect as was deſired, for that therein was no reſtraint of the number of thoſe that ſhould ſell Tobacco by retaile, nor care taken of the quality of thoſe that ſhould make ſuch ſale, but Victuallers, Tauerners, Alehouſekeepers, Tapſters, Chamberlaines, Hoſtlers and others, of the meaneſt condition haue promiſcuouſly vſed to regrate the ſame as allurements to other naughtineſſe, keeping therein no Aſſize, to the preiudice of the reſt of his Maieſties louing Subiects. For repreſſing therefore of all ſuch exceſſes and for preuenting of future inconuenience, Our Soueraigne Lord the King, by the aduice of the Lords and others of his Priuie Councell hath reſolued to reduce the venting, ſelling and vttering of Tobacco into ſome good order, and that none but men of ſufficiency, and ſuch as ſhall bring certificate of their meetneſſe, ſhall hereafter ſell or vtter any Tobacco by retaile. And to that purpoſe his Maieſtie hath lately cauſed Letters from his Lords, and others of his Priuie Councell to bee directed vnto the Juſtices of Peace of the ſeuerall Counties of this Kingdome, and Dominion of Wales, and alſo vnto the Maiors, Bailiffes and other chiefe Officers of diuers Cities and Townes Corporate; Commanding them to certifie in what Townes and places it may bee fit to ſuffer ſelling and retailing of Tobacco, and how many in each place were fit to bee licenſed to vſe that Trade. In anſwere of which Letters, Certificates haue beene made from diuers of the Juſtices of Peace, and from the Maiors, Bailiffes, and other Magiſtrates of diuers Cities and Townes Corporate, who therein haue acknowledged the abuſes that daily ariſe by the vngouerned ſelling and retailing of Tobacco, expreſſing their deſire of reformation.

Wherupon his Maieſtie by like aduice of his Counſell hath cauſed other Letters to be directed to the Juſtices and Conſeruators of the Peace in ſeuerall Counties; thereby declaring in what Townes and places Tobacco ſhall be permitted to be ſold or vttered by Retayle, and hath Commanded the ſaid Juſtices and Conſeruators of the Peace, to cauſe the names of thoſe Townes and places ſpecified in thoſe Letters, to be written and affixed in publique places where the Aſſiſes and Seſſions of the peace ſhall be kept, in thoſe Counties, to the end that all his people may take notice that other places are not admitted or allowed for ſelling or vttering of Tobacco by Retaile. And by Letters directed to the ſaid Maiors, Bayliffes, and other head Officers of Cities and Townes, his Maieſtie hath giuen notice vnto them of the names of thoſe that are permitted there to ſell or deliuer Tobacco in that manner, and hath Commanded them to giue publique notice in the ſaid Cities and Townes, of the names of thoſe perſons that are ſo admitted to ſell or deliuer it.

Now our ſaid Souereigne Lord the King doth ſtraightly prohibite all his people, that after the feaſt of Candlemas next comming after the date of theſe preſents, none of them out of the ſaid Cities or Townes ſo appointed as aforeſaid, or within the ſaid Cities, or Townes, no others but thoſe named as aforeſaid, and ſuch as from time to time ſhall bee permitted in like manner, doe ſell or deliuer any Tobacco by Retayle, and that none of them that are permitted or allowed in this behalfe, keepe any Tauerne, Alehouſe, or Victualling, or otherwiſe ſell any diſtilled or hot waters, Wine, Ale, Beere, or Cyder in their houſes, ſo long as they ſhall bee permitted to ſell Tobacco by Retayle: And for that the neceſſities of theſe times require it, his Maieſtie doth charge and command all his Subiects to obey theſe his Ordinances, vnder the paines to bee inflicted vpon contemners of the ſame, and of his Royall will and pleaſure, being for the good of his people: All which his pleaſure is ſhall bee obſerued vntill hee ſhall by his Proclamation, or Letters of his Priuie Counſell make other publique ſignification of his pleaſure herein. And hee doth charge and command all Juſtices of Peace, and all Maiors, Bayliffes, and head Officers of all his Cities and Townes within his ſaid Kingdome of England, and Dominion of Wales, and all thoſe who are permitted to ſell Tobacco by Retaile, that they make diligent enquirie of all thoſe that ſhall preſume to doe againſt this Command, and from time to time to make certificate of their names, and places of their reſidence, with the particular of their contempts, to the Lords of his Maieſties Priuie Councell.

Giuen at the Court at Whitehall the thirteenth day of October, in the ninth yeere of the Reigne of our Souereigne Lord CHARLES by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.

God ſaue the King.

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